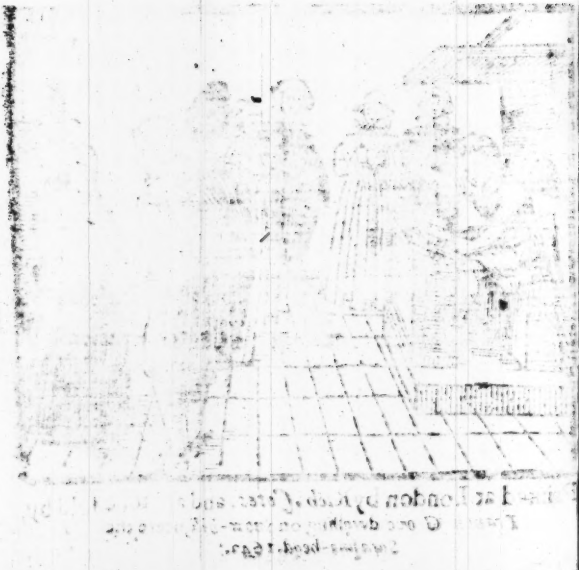
CVPIDS SCHOOLE:

Wherein
Yong men and Mayds may learne diverſe ſorts of new, witty, Amorous Complements.
Newly written, and never any written before in the ſame kinde.

Complaine unto thy Love with flattering Art,
For gentle words do move the hardeſt heart.

Printed at London by *Rich. Cotes*, and are tobe ſold by, *Francis Grove*, dwelling on *Snow-hill*, neere the *Sarazins-head*. 1642.



The Character and Deſcription of a Complement.

N the old time their Garments were plaine, and ſo were their words and meaning. But afterward, ſome more witty than the reſt (finding what power perſwaſion hath over the minde of man) invented a new art of words called Complements: which is indeed nothing but an effable and courteous manner of ſpeech, and yet is now growne ſo neceſſary, that nothing can be done without them. For men now a-dayes regard not vertuous qualities, but onely a pleaſingneſſe of nature and condition, ſo that hee that ſpeaketh beſt, proceeds beſt, and ſhall be ſure to be preferred before the plaine meaning man. So that the neceſſity of theſe times doth enforce us to learne the Art of Complements, which I will prove unto you by particulars, and firſt in love, he that thinkes to winne affection by telling a Maid in

plaine tearmes that hee loves her, is much deceived, for when ſhe heares you begin ſo plainly, ſhe will ſtart backe from you, and think you to be ſome ignorant *Coridon*, that know not *Cupids* language: when on the contrary, hee that can deliver his minde in amorous words, doth ſeeme to keepe the keyes of their Maydenheads, of which he can take poſſeſſion when he liſt, for their hearts are at his devotion; while the other poore Lover that cannot expreſſe his minde in a Complement, may pine away with ſorrow unregarded, for he that loves moſt is many times neglected, and he that loves leaſt is oftentimes moſt reſpected. Therefore it behooves a Lover now adaies to uſe ſome Complement & inſinuation to procure affection, for a man can prevaile in nothing without Complements: your friend will not thinke you his friend, without you ſalute him with a Complement: you cannot invite one home, nor entertaine him afterward, without Complements, neither can you keepe company, or be ſociable without the mutual enterchanging of Complements. To conclude therefore, a Complement is the language of Gallants, the Conquerour of Mayden-heads, the quinteſſence of wit, the refiner of ſpeech, and neceſſary both in City and Countrey. For though the Countrey-man be

plaine

plaine, yet faire and courteous words will prevaile much with the goodneſſe of his nature: and this may be ſeene by the fable of *Mercury* and *Iupiter*, who wandring one night upon the plaines, not knowing where to get a lodging, at laſt they came to the houſe of old *Baucis* and *Philemon*, an old marryed couple, who had long lived together in a poore cottage: here *Iupiter* beginning to make his caſe known, the old wife *Baucis* began to ſcold, and told him plainely ſhe had no lodging for him, till at laſt *Mercury* ſo farre prevailed with his complementall eloquence, that the good wife being raviſhed with his ſweete words, ſtraight opened the doore, lighted a candle, and entertained them with all kindneſſe and courteſie: whereby you may ſee that ſuch is the power of Complements, that it breakes lockes, opens doores at mid-night, and will give you acceſſe to the miſtreſſe of your heart, if you can but handſomely complement with the Maid, and come over her with melting language; onely you muſt remember to mingle ſome kiſſes, and line her Apron with gold, and then you may be ſure to obtaine your owne deſires. Beſides, as Complements are neceſſary in wooing, ſo you cannot counſell your friend to refraine from any vicious courſe, unleſſe you uſe the inſinuation of a Complement, for truth

is so sharpe, that it is displeasing to all men, and seemes to grate their eares, if it be not sweetned by some pleasant discourse; and therefore when you are to doe the tenderest office of a friend, which is to lay his shame and vice before him, there is nothing can give a more ready entrance to your words, or make him more willingly endure the sharpenesse of good counsell, than to begimme in a loving and complementall manner. Seeing therefore that a Cõplement is so gracefull to the speaker, so delightfull to the hearer, and so powerfull to winne affection, I hope young men will imbrace and love this Booke, which teacheth them how to obtain their love. And I hope young Mayds will lay it under their pillow, and read it when they goe to bed, since, it will instruct them how to give an Answer to their amorous Sutors. And so wishing to all young men and Maydes the accomplishment of their desires, I leave these complements to their perusall.

A com-

A Complement to the Reader.

Gentle Reader,

IT is some perswasion to read a Booke, when wee dare say that the matter is new, and that there was never any thing written in the same kind. This we may affirme of these Complements: and therefore having had no patterne of imitation to direct me, I hope (kind Reader) thou wilt so much the rather vouchsafe out of thy wonted kindnesse to grace them with thy favourable acceptance. Let their newnesse perswade thee to rerd, and then I doubt not but thou shalt find some amongst them so pleasant and delightfull, as will induce thee to crowne my labours with thy free commendations. For as I am studious to benefit thee in in any thing I may. so all the ayme of my desire is, to bee thought worthy of thy liking and good opinion: which if thou grant me, it shall oblige the service of my Pen to pleasure thee in this or any other kind. So I rest,

Thine as mine,
W. S.

The Author to the Reader.

WHen thou dost chance to fall in love
by power of Cupids *bow,*
If thou these Complements doe prove,
their vertue thou shalt know.

Suppose thy Sweet-heart fled from thee,
as Daphne *from* Apollo,
Yet she at last changed will be,
if thou the chace doe follow.

And if these Complements thou use,
in fitting place and time:
The Maid that did thy love refuse,
shall unto love incline.

For though my selfe did never try,
yet I have heard it said,
Faire words and opportunity,
will winne the coyest Maid.

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A BOOKE OF COMPLEMENTS.

As there are divers occasions of speech, so to have variety of words and phrases to expresse ones selfe, must needs be an ornament to the speaker, and delightfull to the hearer: I have therefore in this little Booke set down some formes of speaking and answering, as followeth.

1. To wooe a Mayd.

FAire mayd, the opportunity of time and place (none being by to overheare us) doth invite mee to discover my affection. For since nothing can be determined in loves affaires without consent of both parties, I meane now to acquaint you with my desire: which

which is, that since my heart hath made choice of you in the way of marriage, you would bee pleased to receive my love with like affection: I know I might have delivered my mind in more choice and eloquent words, but believe me, that love is truest, which speakes plainest. Now the reasons that induce mee to seeke your love, are the vertuous qualities which adorne your mind; whose amiable and lovely beauty makes my heart burne with a chast affection: Thinke not therefore that any foule desires move me to become a Suitor to you, nor am I hasty for marriage; for if you please to grant mee your love, I will stay your leasure to appoint the day to consummate our happinesse. I am a young pleader at the Barre of affection, and therefore hope you will not discourage me in my first suit, but rather since my cause is full of love, will at last give me a happy answere. Fearfull distrust I know doth plead against me, and tels you how Maides have beene deceived by flattering men, who have onely made a Complement of love to obtaine their owne desires But alas (faire Maide) condemne not all because some have beene false hearted: for I dare promise for my selfe, that the streame of my affection flowing from your vertues shall ever keepe a constant course. For the seale of

your

your love is so deepely imprinted in my heart, that no time can weare it out: and therefore be assured, that till you cease to be vertuous (which I know is impossible) I can never cease to love you. And thus (sweet Mayd) I have unclasped the volumne of my secret thoughts, wherein you may read by faire intents, which are onely to obtaine your love. and ioyne your heart nearer to mine by the inviolable Bond of marriage. Let me desire you therefore to unfold your lips, and give a favouring answer to my languishing hopes.

2. The Maids answer

SIr, your language is so full of chaste affection, and delivered with so much moving passion, that had my fancy hitherto entertained a thought of love, you had certainly prevailed over the weakenesse of a Mayds resistance. But alas, your love is a stranger to my heart; and therefore blame me not if I dare not receive it as a plaine guest, till I have consulted with my owne thoughts. Sudden consent is alwaies held dangerous, and is still followed by repentance. And therefore give me leave to consider your late motion, & I will study your satisfactiō in my answer: which if it prove not to your content, yet it shall expresse my thankfulnesse for

that love you beare me. In the meane time I must dismisse my selfe from your company, for I feare my mother hath tooke notice of our conference, and so for my abrupt departure (if it be any breach of manners) I must relye on your parton.

3. To urge a suite the second time.

THe next day repairing to the former place, I spyed these two Lovers lying on a bank of Flowers, so that using the friendship of some bushes to hide me, I lay downe, and so unseene over-heard the former Suitor renewing his suite in these words: Faire Mayd, now is the time that your promise hath ingag'd you to give an answer to my doubtfull feares: and now I am to receive my sentence from you, which I hope shall be full of comfort, since the greatest offence wherewith you can charge my heart, is onely this, that I love you: and therefore I came to this place full of hope to be made happy by your answer, so let me returne full of joy by your free consenting to my former motion. But what needs I doubt, or afflict my selfe with vaine feares? since I doe reade some comfort in your cheerefull countenance, which cannot, like a cruell Judge, smile and condemne at once

heart

heart doth presage, that during my absence, Cupid hath wrought in your heart a good opinion of me, which if you are unwilling to let your tongue confesse, lest a bush should spread it self upon your cheeke: I am content to take your silence for my answer, so you will suffer me, according to the rules of love, to interpret that silence for consent. But say, I see your lips are ready to prepare my doome, and therefore with patience I will expect my sentence either of life or death, since it is in your power to raise me up, or cast me downe.

4. The Mayds answer.

SIr, I perceive the love that you professe unto me can receive no alteration by time: for I was in good hope, that your two dayes absence would have informed your judgement, to place your love on some more worthy choyce. But now since you are bent still to prosecute your former suite, and will not believe me when I tell you how much I want of those vertues which you attribute to me, I hope you will not blame me if I consent to your former motion: for I believe you love me in the way of marriage, and in that assurance I grant you my love and affections.

5. The

5. The Lovers reply.

IT is a grant that makes me happy, and now let me seale my patent with this kisse, for you have given me your love, and with it a little world of happinesse: So that there remaines nothing, but that we appoint our wedding day, which I will not hasten through any forward desire of mine owne: For since I have obtain'd your promise for marriage, I doe beleeve that our hearts are already married in heaven, before a Congregation of Angels, which the Church shal but only publish and make known to the world. And so bidding adieu to vaine Complements, which onely became mee as a Suitor, I hope I may now say you are mine, as I am yours.

6. Master Brainlesse his wooing of Mistrisse Barbara.

SWeete Mistresse Barbara, I beseech you not to be barbarous unto mee. For our Fathers have made the match already, and I am now come to woe you: for I feele the mould of my affection begin to water at thee, so that there must be some speedy remedy found out to allay my burning heat, for if I looke but on your pretty foote, I feele my heart begin to rise beneath

beneath my girdle, that sure I thinke thou hast some spirit about thee, which doth bewitch mee, but I hope ere long, you shall finde that I have a spirit too, which if it take after my Mother, it may be a devilliſh ſpirit for any thing I know, for I am ſure thee was an arrant ſhrew. But I love no long diſcourſe, and therefore I would entreat you,

That you would looke upon my wounded heart,
And with your favour helpe to eaſe my ſmart.

7. To excuſe ſome inconſiderate ſpeeches to a Gentlewoman.

IF formerly (ſweet Miſtris) I have throwne out any words inconſiderately, which might move your anger, I beſeech you pardon them, or if my tongue have wronged my heart by haſty ſpeaking, attribute it to my raſhneſſe, not want of love: for I recant thoſe wordes that have moved your iuſt diſdaine, and ſince they cannot be recalled, let your wiſedome and ſweetneſſe of nature be ſhewed in pardoning, as my folly was in offending: Let theſe words excuſe my treſpaſſe, for I know you are full of mercy, and cannot long deny a pardon to him that ſues for it with teares, though in a greater matter. But I ſee you turne away from mee as if my words ſeeking to excuſe my former

words did still offend you, and therefore I will beg some favour from you in these few verses which I made upon this occasion.

If that my tongue (faire Nymph) hath said a-
The same for pardon now a Sutor is, (misse,
Or for it selfe if it too weakely pleade,
My lips on its behalfe thus intercede:
Thus sue, thus beg, and begging will not leave,
Till they a pardon seal'd from yours receive,
And while my kisses beg, O happy me,
If I might ever such a begger be.

8. To welcome one home.

SIr, we have often wished your company at home, and now you have made us happy in our desires, by your safe returne, to bid you welcom is but the common rode way of friendship, and therefore I would faine speake something that might set forth my love more fully, but indeed I find that all words are too meane to expresse the joy that my heart conceives at your happy returne. We were fearfull and solicitous, least some misfortune might befall you in the way. But now we must confesse we owe a sacrifice of thanks to Heaven for protecting you in your journey, and bringing you backe againe unto us, to whom I dare presume

you

you are as welcome as health to the ſicke man, or a calme to the Weather-beaten Mariner. To conclude, I could bid you welcome a thouſand times, and yet thinke thoſe welcomes too few for ſince my love to you is infinite, I muſt needs ſay you are infinitely welcome.

9. To perſwade by way of Councell.

SIr, were I worthy to counſell you, of whom I am more fit to learne than to adviſe, I would perſwade you, to leave off that ill company, to which I finde you are too much addicted For I profeſſe unto you, my counſell is directed to no other aime, but your owne good, and to entreate you to be kind unto your ſelfe, and not to diſgrace your parentage and birth, by frequenting ſuch baſe and ignoble company, who onely deſire to infect you with their vices, and who like ſhaddowes onely depend upon the Sunne of your fortune: which if once it be darkened by the eclipſe of adverſity, you ſhall finde that you who before could number ſo many friends, ſhall then be left alone to deplore your owne folly, in thinking that thoſe could be friends unto you, who are not friends unto themſelves: for having by their owne lavish profuſion ſpent their owne eſtates, all their purpoſe now is to winde you into the

some Labyrinth of misery, if there thou have already entred into the intricate wayes of vice, let my counsell serve like Adriadne's clew of threed to guide your steps, backe againe into the way of vertue, from which you have too farre already wandred. But perhaps I shall obtaine your hatred, and by seeking to reclaime your errours, shall thereby lose your favour, yet however, I shall expresse the duty and office of a friend: for while I see you run these wilde, and ruinous courses, though I am your friend, I will not be your flatterer.

10. To entreate a courtesie

SIr, you shall oblige mee to you, by adding one new favour to your former courtesies, for so it is, that my businesse will miscarry, unlesse I obtaine your assistance, which if you please to grant mee, you shall not onely binde me unto you by the respects of duty and observance, but shall also expresse your selfe the miracle of true friendship, I confesse I am unwilling to be troublesome unto you, but yet such is the commanding necessity of my affaires, that I must assume an unwonted boldnesse to petition your favour and assistance in my behalfe.

11. The

11. The anſwer.

SIr, you may command mée; for I am ſo wholly devoted to your ſervice, that you may aſſure your ſelfe, I can deny you no requeſt which lies within the circle or compaſſe of my power. For my heart is yours, and therefore what good I am able to doe you (either in this or any other kind) you may promiſe your ſelfe) being indéed glad to be imployed in any ſervice that concernes you, ſo that (to the ability of a poore friend) I ſhall be ever ready to ſeconde your deſires with my beſt endeavours. Command me therefore when you pleaſe, and you ſhall finde mé your ready ſervant, for I languiſh with a deſire to doe you ſome courteſie that may expreſſe that friendſhip and love I owe you, which hath hitherto laine dead in me, for loant of opportunity to demonſtrate and make it evident to the eyes of the World, by ſome friendly office.

12. To bid a Bride good morrow.

MIſtris Bride, I wiſh the joyes of love may be ſtill multiplyed upon you. May bluſh not, for it is no ſhame to doe the Common wealth ſervice, by bringing a race of Souldiers into the World. I know this night you

have endeboured for it, but we must see the fruit hereafter: All this I wish is, that your Husband and you may live together like a contented paire, happy in each other. What now? Weeping? I hope you will not give such an example to the Mayds, or so disable your Bridegroom, as to shew any signes of griefe or sorrow on the following morning to your Wedding day. If you have parted with a long preserved joy to night, yet comfort your selfe in your losses, for there are many Mayds would have been glad of your place, and thanke you too. But I have no art in Complements, and therefore in a word, I wish you all joy.

13. To bid a Bridegroome good morrow.

MAster Bridegroom, I must congratulate the joyes of Marriage, and wish they may increase daily to both your comforts: you have enjoyed to night a happinesse which my knowledge did never yet arive at, and therefore it is unpossible for me to guesse it; however I doe not envy, but wish you all happinesse with your faire choyce. And though by your heavy eye, I discerne you have not tooke your due of rest to night, yet you may take it out the next, for I could wish my Bedde were troubled with such fleas, on that condition I slept not these

two nights. All that I can wish is this, that no fatall time day, or houre, may produce a change or alteration in your affections: But that you may live like Turtle Doves you loping in her and she with mutuall delight making you the object of all her happinesse, that so your marriage may prove a merri-age.

14. At the first meeting of a friend.

SIr, you are well met and most happily returned; for fame hath given out a sinister report, that you were miscarried in your iourney, but I am glad the old proverbe is true, that fame is often a lyer. I pray let a pint of Wine be the Scrivener to renew the bonds of our friendship, for I am even full of ioy to behold you, and my heart would bid you welcome in better phrase, but that I want words to expresse the integrity and truth of my affection. I have forgot all this while to enquire of our friends health, my thoughts were so wholy busied to bid you welcome. But I hope, Sir, they are well.

15. The other friends answer

SIr, your friends are all well, and are mindful of you in the remembrance of their love. Neither am I lesse ioyfull at our fortunate

méeting, which is a happineſſe I haue long wiſhed for; and though my tongue cannot interpret the inward ioy of my heart, yet I would not haue you thinke that loue is leaſt; which hath leaſt expreſſion of it ſelfe. For a full veſſell yéelds no ſound, and a heart full of affection cannot ſo eaſily expreſs it ſelfe in a ſmooth way of Complements: in a word I am heartily glad to ſée you and to ſay more, were but to ſpeake the ſame in more words.

16. To preſent a gift to a Mayd.

FAire Mayde, I would deſire you to accept this ſmall Ring, as an embleme of my affection, which like a circle ſhall be ever endleſſe. I know it is unworthy your acceptance, yet deigne out of the graciouſneſſe of your humility, to receiue this unworthy pledge of that loue and ſeruice which I ſhall ever owe you, till time ſhall enable me to expreſſe my loue in ſome more worthy gift. And if at any time this toy doe chance to draw downe your eye unto your finger, if you pleaſe to remember me thereby and thinke on me who hath deuoted my ſelfe to your ſeruice, I ſhall thinke my ſelfe the leſſe unhappy in my abſence; though indéed till I returne againe, I ſhall be able to reliſh no taſte of comfort, ſince all my ioy is to

enioy

enjoy your company: but my businesse doth enforce me away, so that leaving this with you as a memento of my affection, I take my leave with as sad a heart as ever lover parted with his Mistresse.

17. To bid a friend farewell.

SIr, I am so unwilling to be depriued of your sweete society, and so sorry to lose the fruition of your good company, that my heart will hardly permit mee to take my leaue of you, yet since the necessity of your occasions doth enforce us to part, I can but wish you a prosperous iourney, and with my prayers daily solicite heaven for your safe returne. I will not burthen your memory with seuerall commendations, but onely desire you to remember my loue and seruice in generall, to all our friends in the Countrey. This is all I require of you, and since, though unwilling, wee must endure your absence from us, I will promise in the meane time, to bee your Beades-man to pray for your happy iourney, and will onely keepe so much of my heart as may keepe me alive, the other half shal go with you. Now I see why death is called departing, for departing of friends is a short death; giue

me

me your hand, the ancient emblem of affection, and I pray be carefull of your selfe, since in your welfare consists the welfare of all your friends. And so farewell.

18. To entreat a courtesy of a stranger

SIr, though I am unknowne unto you, yet the report of your knowne courtesy makes me bold to preferre a suit to your favourable consideration. Which if I might obtaine, I should think vertue hath not quite forsaken the World, but that there lives such sparkes of goodnesse in your breast, as may be able to enflame posterity with an emulation of your goodnesse: I beseech you therefore be not afraid to doe me a courtesie, because I am a Stranger. For by how much you have lesse inducements to shew me any favour, you shall thereby make your vertue shine with more illustrious glory. I must confesse I have no great mans Letter to procure your liking and good opinion of me, yet since my desires are modest, and such as you may grant with ease, I hope you will grant my request, in requitall whereof I will proclaime your nobleness and courtesie wheresoever I come, and will be sure to mention you alwayes in my prayers, who have with the eyes of pitty lookt downe upon the necessities of a stranger.

But

But I will not urge you with any further importunity, but leave my suit to your consideration. Verbum sat bono, few words prevaile with good men in a good cause.

19. To take a Fathers good will for marrying his Daughter.

SIr, it hath pleased your Daughter to bestow her affection upon me, and now I must become a suter to you for your good will & liking: For so farre she hath granted me her love, if it be seconded by your good allowance. I would intreat you therefore be pleased to ratify and establish by your free consent what the Heavens have already decreed. For our hearts are already married in heaven, and we lacke nothing now but your consent, which I hope I shall obtaine, and since we have both beene obedient in making you acquainted with our desires, I beseech you sacke not to crosse our loves, but give us both your blessing.

20. To begin a health.

GEntlemen, since we are now unable to commemorate our friends any other way than by remembring them in a healthy, I am bold, out of the overflowing of my love, to dedicate

dicate this health to the memory of our absent friends, I will fill it so full that a flye may drinke of it at the top, and will drinke it so clearely off, that a flye shall not be able to drink at the bottome. And thus Gentlemen I begin it, hoping that no man that honours his friend will refuse it, for I would have the health in a circular order move round about the table, till every man hath had it: And so (as I said before) I begin this health Ad salutem Amicorum. To the health of all our friends, wishing them as full a measure of all happinesse, as this cup is full of Wine. I hope you'le pledge me Gentlemen.

21. To promise to pledge it.

SIr, heere's no man will refuse it, for my part I will continue the health for I am bound to second it, since it is in memory to our friends, and therefore I will pledge it, though the glasse were so big, that the Wine might make a cover to it.

22. To desire to be excused.

GEntlemen, I must entreat your pardon, for I dare not drinke such health, since I know I should loose mine owne health by it. Besides, I hold it a heathenish custome, and not

not becomming a Christian. I shall therefore esteeme it a courtesy in you to dispence with my pledging it; for to shew love to our friends by wronging our selves, were a part of folly rather then friendship. To which purpose I have written these verses.

'Tis an old rule now amongst *Bacchus* traine,
That from our owne healthes drinking we refraine:
Yet now they doe begin healths to their friends,
Which with the losse of their owne health still ends:
And thus while of our friends, too much we make,
We love our friends but our owne selves we hate.

23. To acquaint one with a journey.

I Am to ride this morning toward London, and if you please to command mee any service, I shall be carefull in the performance of it: or if you have any thing to buy, pray let me be your Steward, Ile buy it as cheape as I can for; it is a happinesse to me to have any imploy, ment from you. If therefore you have any busi-nesse or cause to solicite, trust me with it, and I will use the best diligence I can to effectuate your desires, or if you please to command me a-ny other service, you shall finde me your ready servant.

24. To thanke one for a courtesie.

SIr, I must acknowledge my self indebted to you for your last courtesy, the remembrance

makes

makes me your debtor till I can finde some opportunity of requitall; neither will I bee ungratefull for your last favour, but will returne it with interest when Fortune shall enable me: in the mean time I would desire you to reckon me in the number of those that are beholding to you, and for your former courtesies to take the payment of a friend, in a currant English thankes.

25. To excuse a friend in his absence.

SIr, it is the part of one friend to excuse another in his absence, and therefore I intreate you not to be offended with him till you know the truth. but to interprete all things to the best. For I know it would much grieve him to gaine your displeasure, and therefore let not your wisedome censure him in his absence for I know hee will cleare himselfe at his returne. Bee pleased therefore to suspend your anger a while, and let not your passion pronounce him guilty, before you know the truth: for if you will unjustly condemne him, I must rise up in my friends defence, for howsoever his enemies have incensed you against him, I dare engage my selfe hee is not guilty of those calumnious slaunders which are heaped on him. Let me entreate you therefore not to give credit

credit to the reports of malicious informers, who can with ease defame and cast aspersions upon the best men, but I would rather have you thinke the best of him, till you know the worst, and then determine of as you find cause. If hee deserve it, let him continue still your friend if not, let him be wiped out of the number of your friends.

26. The Wooers Complement.

Sweet Maide, the Sunne hath almost gone his yearely iourney about the World since first I beheld the Sunne of your beauty, which hath so dazled mine eyes, that I beheld all other things as trifles in respect of those glorious beames which do shoot themselves from thence. If therefore continuance of time may bee any assurance of fidelity in love, you must needes confesse that I have long beene a devoted servant to your perfections. Bee pleased therefore now to accept that love of mine, which my fond heart cannot conceale, you are the darling of my thoughts, the treasure of my heart, the happinesse of my life: neither would I live indeed, but that I hope in time by my true service and obedience to obtaine your favour. Neither would I have you thinke that I flatter you, for my tongue doth but interpret to

my

my heart, and the heavens know with what a due reverence I honour you. If therefore my love be grounded upon vertuous desires, you ought to cherrish it, but if I seeke your wrong by satisfaction of my owne desires, let me perish in your favour, which is to me above all punishments. You are the Load-stone of my affection, your lips are the moyst Adamants that doe attract me, one touch from your hand hath power to revive the dead faculties of age. There is musick in your voyce, and a lovelines in all your actions. Blame me not then for loving you, but blame your selfe for being so worthy of love, and since your beauties have wonnded me, let your gracious answer cure mée by consenting to tie that holy knot of Marriage, which I have often urged. Make me happy in your answer.

27. The Mayds answer.

SIr, as you are a friend to vertue, I cherish your Love and am perswaded you love mée: but alas, wée Maydes have no power to give away our selves without consent of Parents, neither can we dispose of our selves, or be liberall of our affections, till our Parents be acquainted withit. And therefore you must now become a Suitor to my Fa-

ther

ther; his liking obtain'd, mine shall follow, and if you get his good will: my hand shall give you my heart in the Church before the whole Congregation: in the meane time rest assured, you shall find me constant in affection, and therefore you neede sollicite mee no further, I am yours.

28. The Wooers answer.

I Desire no more happinesse: for by your answere you have revived my droping heart; neither would I change my estate with rich Crœsus, since I value the obtaining of your love above the Empire and Dominion of the whole world. I doubt not but we shall live and love together. And as for your Father, I hope he will grant us the priviledge due to al hearts, to love & to enioy: and I wil shortly take some fit opportunity to sollicite his consent: in the interim I must force my heart to take my leave of you, not daring to salute you, for feare one kis should tempt me back againe, but tis no matter, what we spare now, we will take out upon our Wedding day. Farewell.

29. To invite one home.

SIr, I have often desired your company at home, but yet could never be so happy to obtaine it. But now you shall not deny to grace my poore house with your presence, since we are hard by it, and to honour me so much as to let the star of your vertue shine within the sphear of my house: for I dare promise though entertainement be not worthy your invitation, yet you shall be as welcome as a friend can be to a friend.

30. To excuse with thankes.

SIr, I desire your pardon, for my businesse will not permit me, otherwise you should not intreat me twice if I could grant it without much hinderance to my selfe. I am sorry to refuse your kind invitaion, but I will promise to visite you shortly, and since it is your desire, I will be bold to call upon you. At this time I am enforced to withstand my owne happinesse by denying your free invitation, but I hope you will excuse me, and attribute it to my businesse, not want of love.

31. To

31. To deliver a Letter to a Lady.

MAdam, heere's a Letter waites your perusall; and desires to be presented to your Ladyships hand, the messenger told mee that it was sent from your humblest servant Sir T. C.

32. The Ladies answer to her waiting-Gentlewoman.

WHo bid you forsooth receive these amorous papers? I know tis lighter than a Complement and it may be 'twas written in a Taverne, I will not open it till I meane to laugh, for I meane to make it my recreation after meales. But I pray be carefull hereafter to receive no more, you know my mind, and now you cannot excuse your selfe by ignorance

33. The Waiting-mayds answer.

I Shall obey your Ladyships command, for I will not gaine your Ladyships displeasure by receiving their Letters, though they should tempt me with a shower of Gold, I will

not offend wilfully, but will study in all things to preserve your favour: for it hath bæn hitherto the aime of my desires to continue myselfe in your Ladyships good liking, and I hope I shall never deserve the contrary.

34. The Servingmans wooing of *Susan* a Chamber-Mayd.

SVsan, it is now three yeares since we have bæne fellow-servants together. During which time I have received many courtesies from you, and bæne invited to many a Sacke Posset, which kindnesses of yours, though tending to no other end than to expresse your owne naturall goodnesse, have since invited me to love you. And now having both fate out the fire, and our candle burning dimly, I thought this twy-light, would best become a Love-suit. For I protest unto you Susan, I love you with as much affection as my heart can obtaine: and albeit we have often fallen out upon trifles, yet I did it but to try thy nature, which I found to be hasty (as the best natures are) but not able to retaine anger long, and therefore I hope you will forgive what is past, and consider my motion which tends, to both our good. For is it not better to live

liue freely in the married state of life, than to depend on seruice, where euery frowne is ready to call us off the hinges? for my part Susan, though the vnthriftines of my friends did first compell me to vndertake a seruile life, yet I could neuer bring my heart to affect it, and I know you are of the same mind, for I haue heard you say, your Father was a wealthy Farmer, who comming behindhand with the world you were put forth to seruice, which kind of life I know must néeds seeme tedious, and therefore I haue propounded a way, whereby wee may both liue a free and happy life. I know you will obiect the want of meanes to maintaine a charge of family. 'Tis true, but yet let vs not despaire of Gods blessings, for haue we not seene many Couples, whose whole stock could hardly purchase a Wedding Ring, and a Licence, who yet afterward by their owne endeauours haue liued more contentedly than these great money-matches, which seldome prosper? for where there is loue, there all things thriue, but where there is debate, there all things go to wracke. Loue will supply the defects of want, so that if you please to entertaine my suite with your kind acceptance, you shall not only free your selfe from the subiection of a seruant but liue in the sweet yoke of marriage.

And now Susan I entreat you to cõsider these reasons which I could enlarge but that I feare our Candle will goe out, and therefore having thus rudely with little art, but much affection, deliuered my minde, I hope you will make me happy by your answer.

35. Susans answer.

ROger, you are much mistakē to interpret any curtesie of mine to proceed from love, though indeed I have alwaies loued you as one seruant may loue another. But for other matters (as they say) I never so much as dream't of them, and therefore doe not urge so vaine a suite, for I have something else to doe, than to thinke of marriage. It is a signe Roger you liue easily, for ease is the nurse of loue; but if you sate up night by night, watching as I doe, and then arose againe as early in the morning you would have little mind to entertaine a thought of loue, And therefore hereafter busie your selfe in some good imployment, & you shall see these idle fancies will vanish of themselues. But if by this meanes your desires be not abated, I will consider better of your motion, and this is all I can say at this time, in answere of your suit. And so farewell, for I heare my

Mistris

Mistris knocke above, and therefore I must be gone.

36. To desire a Mayd to speake to the Mistresse.

SWeete-heart, I know your long and faithfull service hath indear'd you into your Mistresses opinion, so that she repeses some trust and confidence in your words, and I know you are not ignorant of those strange times & seasons when womens fancies are most apt to receive Loves impression If therefore you would please to take some houre of advantage to remember my suite to your Mistresse, and would but cast forth some words that may stir affection in my behalfe, I would not prove unthankfull, For though others have solicited you in the same way, yet if you will promise mee your good word and assistance to preferre my suite to your Mistresse, I will requite it in your owne desire, in earnest whereof I would intreate you to weare this Ring; and to be mindfull of me in my absence, that so at my next visitatiō of your Mistris, I may find her more inclinable to my suite. Farewell.

37. To intreat lodging at a Gentlemans house.

SIr, being a stranger benighted and strayed out of my way and finding that the Village Towne affords no Inne or house of receipt, I would gladly be beholding to you for this nights lodging till in the morning I may receive some better directions to proceed on my iourney.

38. The Gentlemans answer.

SIr, it is a courtesy that the lawes of hospitality bind me to performe. I must confesse our Towne is but ill provided for the entertainment of strangers, and therefore if you please to accept of such a meane lodging as my house can afford, you shall be welcome.

39. A bold Complement to a Widdow.

SWeet Widdow, I come not with a tedious Complement to win affection: but I come with love and youth, which are more gracefull qualities in a Widdowes eyes. I am indeed a yonger brother, and have no land to indeare me into

into your liking, yet if you please (as they say) to cast away your selfe upon a man, I hope I shal be able to delight you with the swéet contents of love. Thinke it not therefore the worst charity to make a man, and to raise the fortunes of a yonger Brother, who only wants some of that white and red earth, which lyes by you so uncomfortably Come, I will not be put backe or dawnted, nor will I take your no, for a denyall: for I know, howsoever you Widdowes séeme to dislike our boldnesse, yet in your owne thoughts you doe commend us; when like good Souldiers comming up brauely, we make an assault upō your lips and scorne to retire, although your eyes shoot frownes against us. Thus far (swéet Widdow) I have bin bold with you, and I hope not more bold than welcome: yet lest I should presume too far, know therfore in plaine termes that albeit I am the last that hath solicited you for affection, yet doe I not least affect you, but should be glad of such a comforter as your selfe, who by your good counsel may reclaim me from the wild unstayed errors of my youth, for being once married, I will fast from all loose affection, striving night and day to make my self worthy of the title of your husband, which I hope you will grant me, that so our wooing may conclude in a wedding.

40. The Widdowes answer.

ALas Sir, the remembrance of my late Husband, whose memory doth ever draw teares from mine eyes, his memory (I say) had so farre once prevailed, and was so deepely implanted in me, that I resolved never to make a second choyce. But yet I know not how, moved rather out of pitty to your selfe, than any desire of my owne, I am willing to second your desires in any lawfull affection. For I see you can speake movingly, and I must confesse you have wrought more upō me than many others whom I could put backe at any time by telling them with a serious countenance, that I never meant to marry. But I see you will have no answer but in the right kind, and therefore (as I said before) in pitty of your youth, hoping you will be a comfort to my age, and prooue a good Husband, I am content to make you Master of my selfe and mine. But still I say in pitty of your youth, for tis your youth and young blood that I love.

41. To wooe a Country Mayd

FAire Mayd the opportunity of occasion, and the strong bent of my affection (which will either

either breake out in words, or breake my heart) compell me to take this short time to discover my desires unto you. The first time that I beheld you, was, when you were reaping your fathers corne, and then it seemed to me that the golden eares did even bend unto your hands, & your straw hat became you better than if you had worne a coronet of starres. But indeed what need you weare a starry crown, whose eyes are starres and have so powerfull an influence upon the beholders, that ever since that day, my heart hath never been mine owne, but yours, and my thoughts have beene wholly given over to thinke of nothing but the obtaining your love, for which I am come now to entreate, beg, and sue, knowing that you cannot be unmercifull: for if you will save your Fathers Lambs out of danger when they fall into a pit. if such trifling things can move your compassion. I hope you will a little commiserate the dolours, and extreame passions of a Lover. For I perswade you to nothing but that which is the end of your comming into this world, and that is marriage, for how soone would the world decay and come to nothing, if it were not preserved by marriage? since therfore nature hath given you so large perfections, the lookes that you should requite her againe, and not to let your beauties

wither

wither on your cheeke, but to bestow your youth and beauty on him who will honor you both in age and sickenesse. For know this that beauty is a fading flower, which cannot long continue, and as Fryer Bacons head spake, Time is, Time was, Time is past: so Mayds have their severall times and seasons; for at 15. they are in their prime, and then Time is, at 30. Time was, and at 40. Time it past. But I neede not, I hope, use so many circumstances in words, to come to the full point of Marriage, since you your selfe cannot be ignorant of my affection For when you went to milke, I have like a faint shadow followed you, and when you went to fold your fathers sheepe, I have helpt you all which were services of that love and duty which my heart doth owe you. Be pleased therefore now out of the goodnesse of your nature, and by that soft compassion which should dwell in a Maydens heart. to grant me your love, and then I shall esteeme my selfe more happy than the greatest Monarch in the world. I beseech you do not deny me, but let one chast kisse strike a bargaine betweene us, that so we may tie the true Lovers knot of marriage.

42. The

42. The Country Maydes answer.

SIr, I had thought you would not have mockt me by laying beauty to my charge, for I have often beheld my face in the running streame, but I wish I could never behold such a dicker of beauty as you will ascribe unto me. You compare my eyes unto starres, and I know not what. Alas, Sir, doe you thinke we Country Mayds are such harmelesse innocent soles that we are taken with fine faire words, which you Courtiers call Complements? Alas no, you may goe use them to Ladies: yet I know not how, mee thinkes your words come from you with such fervency of affection, that I could find in my heart to answer you in your owne phrase, for you must know wee Country Mayds can Complement as wel as you: know therefore that if your former words doe proceed out of chast desire to marry mee, and if your heart hath beene so long a servant of mine I will not detaine your wages, but will pay you love for love againe, and that I know is the payment that you expect. But I pray doubt not that you overcame me with a Complement though indeed I like your Complements very well, which being set forth with a languishing

thing behaviour, did become you so wel, that I am content to yeeld my selfe to your disposing, and to make my selfe an example to shew what great power a Complement delivered in due time and place may have over a mayds affection: and so without further ceremony, pray let our Banes be bidden, let the fidlers be hired to play upon our wedding day, and let the Mayds strew the way to Church with flowers, for your Complement hath overcome me, and so I leave you.

FINIS.